

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐
no ☒

Property Name: Bldgs. 5032, 5033, 5035, 5037, 5202, 5204 & 5206 Inventory Number: HA-2167
Address: Aberdeen Area Historic district: ☐ yes ☒ no
City: Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) Zip Code: 21005 County: Harford
USGS Quadrangle(s): Perryman
Property Owner: U.S. Army Garrison, APG Tax Account ID Number: _____
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): _____ Tax Map Number: _____
Project: C4ISR Construction and Demolition of Bldgs. in HA-2167 Agency: U.S. Army Garrison, APG
Agency Prepared By: RC Goodwin & Associates, Inc.
Preparer's Name: Katherine Grandine Date Prepared: 9/15/2006

Documentation is presented in: _____

Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: _____ Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property

Name of the District/Property: _____

Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: ☐ yes ☒ no Listed: ☐ yes ☒ no

Site visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Buildings 5032, 5035, 5037, 5202, and 5204 are five identical applied instruction buildings that are sited in a row along the north side of Ravenna Road at Aberdeen Proving Ground. The row of buildings also includes two district heating plants (Buildings 5033 and 5206). The buildings were constructed in 1941 as part of the Ordnance Center and School.

The applied instruction buildings are utilitarian, one-story, industrial shops that measure 202 x 68 feet. The buildings rest on concrete wall foundations topped by approximately four-foot concrete-block walls. The upper walls are steel frame with bands of industrial sash windows on all elevations. The windows have continuous concrete sills. The upper walls are clad with corrugated metal. The gable roofs are sheathed with built up slag and have four roof ridge ventilators. Each building has two sets of doors in the south elevation. Each door opening contains one overhead roll door and a single door enframed by a shared bolted metal surround. The single doorways contained a variety of doors, including solid metal doors and wood-panel doors with four lights. Typical changes to the buildings include installation of metal panels replacing sections of the industrial sash windows, removal of roof ventilators, installation of replacement overhead doors, replacement of roofing materials, and painting over the windows. The interiors of the buildings were originally entirely open. In 1949, an interior wall was constructed along one gable end of the buildings to form three interior rooms.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended ☒

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

MHT Comments:

Jonathan Sager
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

12/11/07
Date

NA
Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

encl. 2

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The district heating plants are tall, one-story, rectangular buildings that measure approximately 37 x 27 feet with one-story lean-to additions along the rear elevations. The buildings are constructed of concrete block and rest on concrete foundations. The buildings have shallow gable roofs sheathed with composition roll roofing. The south elevations have tall overhead track metal doors. Each doorway is flanked by 25-light industrial sash windows with concrete lintels and sills. The 1982 Historic American Buildings Survey forms noted that the heating plant doors on the south elevations originally were paired swing doors with exterior hinges. The heating plants were converted from coal to oil in 1956. Building 5033 has a small one-story, concrete block addition on the east elevation.

History

This group of buildings originally was constructed during World War II as part of the overall expansion program to support the training mission of the Ordnance Training Center at Aberdeen Proving Ground. The Ordnance School was established at Aberdeen Proving Ground during the late 1930s. A complex of permanent Colonial-Revival style school buildings was constructed between 1938 and 1940.

During World War II, the Ordnance Training Center was greatly expanded to accommodate the increased numbers of officers and enlisted personnel in the ordnance training programs. The World War II ordnance training program was organized into three units: the Ordnance School, the Ordnance Replacement Training Center, and the Unit Training Center. The purpose of this organizational structure was to train entire ordnance companies, to train individual personnel for assignment to established ordnance companies, and to train trainers to continue to disseminate ordnance training in the field.

Additional land was acquired through condemnation to expand the complex. In December 1940, work was begun to construct 402 buildings, which was known as Camp Rodman. The project was constructed using standardized plans supplied by the U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps. Irwin and Leighton of Philadelphia were the prime contractors; Albright and Friel were the architects.

Most buildings constructed during the expansion program were wood-frame temporary mobilization buildings arranged in blocks with barracks, mess halls, and personnel support buildings. The wood-frame temporary buildings have since been removed. As part of this building program, 22 permanent applied instruction buildings also were constructed. Permanent buildings were sometimes constructed as part of temporary cantonments for utilities or shops.

The applied instruction buildings at Aberdeen Proving Ground were basically industrial shops that housed applied technical training activities. Applied technical training activities included a wide range of maintenance and repairs for all classes of ordnance equipment ranging from small arms and large artillery pieces to tanks, trucks, and other automotive equipment. The interior of each applied instruction building was a large unfinished space. No records have been uncovered to document the specific training that occurred in these buildings.

Camp Rodman was geographically dispersed to accommodate the expanded training programs and to segregate personnel by rank and race. Blocks of barracks with mess halls were constructed south and west of the permanent Colonial Revival stone buildings housing the Ordnance School. An area for officers was located north of the Aberdeen Boulevard. Smaller groups of barracks were located west along Aberdeen Boulevard. This group of applied instruction buildings was sited south of the main Ordnance School buildings and south of four blocks of wood-frame temporary barracks sited along Boothby Hill Road. The temporary barracks have been replaced with barracks buildings constructed during the last 30 years.

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MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

Evaluation

Buildings 5032, 5033, 5035, 5037, 5202, 5204, and 5206 are utilitarian shops and utility buildings that supported applied training activities during World War II. Surviving records do not document that important specific events (Criterion A) or individuals (Criterion B) are associated with these buildings. The buildings individually possess no significance for their design applying National Register Criterion C due to subsequent exterior alterations that compromise integrity of materials and design. Although the buildings were constructed as part of a much larger mobilization training camp, the remaining buildings do not constitute a district due to the removal of the World War II temporary buildings and the construction of modern buildings in the vicinity that compromise the integrity of setting, feeling, and association with World War II construction to qualify for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

References

Aberdeen Proving Ground, Directorate of Installation Operations (DOI)
Real property records, drawings files.

Goodwin, R. Christopher, & Associates, Inc.
1996 Ordnance School Historic District, Aberdeen Proving Ground National Register Nomination. Prepared for Cultural Resources Manager, Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Green, Constance McLaughlin, Harry C. Thomson, and Peter C. Roots
1990 The Ordnance Department: Planning Munitions for War. Center for Military History, U.S. Army, Washington, D.C.

National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)
n.d. Record Group 77, Entry 391, Aberdeen Proving Ground. College Park, Maryland.

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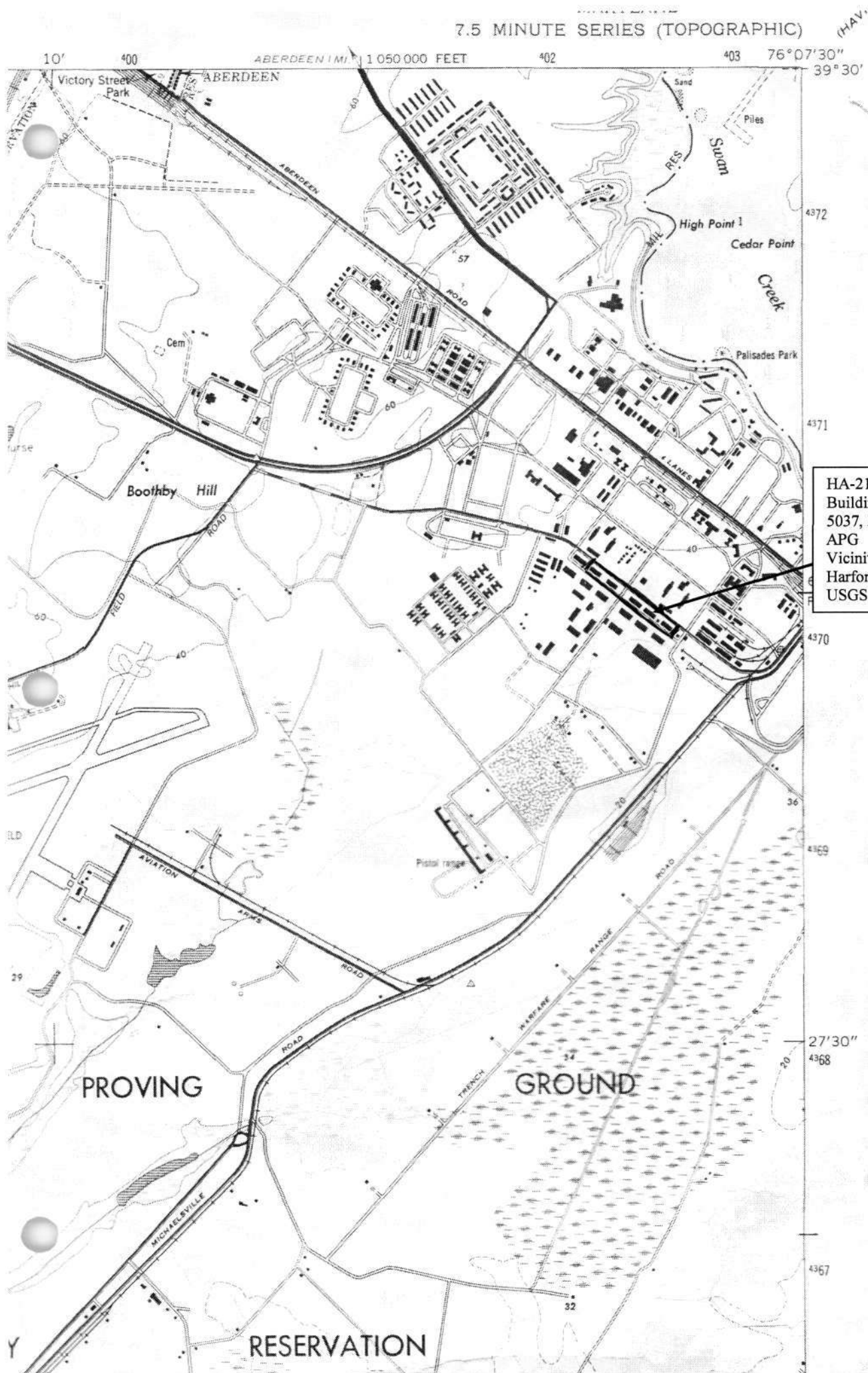
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MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services_____
Date_____
Reviewer, National Register Program_____
Date

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



HA-2167
 Buildings 5032, 5033, 5035,
 5037, 5202, 5204, 5206
 APG
 Vicinity of Aberdeen
 Harford County
 USGS Perryman quadrangle